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Clinton County Trails

Co-Editors
Myrna VanEpps
Arlene Smith



JOHN F. CAUDY

25 January 1915 - 5 May 1991

The Historical Society and the Genealogists lost a true and loyal member with the death of John Caudy in May of this year.

John and his wife, Evangeline, were active supporters of the Genealogists during the early days of this Society. One of the special projects he was responsible for researching was the early Roman Catholic section of Mt. Rest Cemetery. As the wooden head-boards no longer survived, it was necessary to research the St. Johns Independent along with the cemetery records to identify these graves. In more recent times, as a member of the Mt. Rest Cemetery Board, John enabled the Genealogists access to the cemetery records to help complete the tombstone readings of all of Mt. Rest Cemetery, which will be published in book form, in the near future.

When the Clinton County Archives became a reality, John and Evangeline served as librarians for a period. Always a willing and helpful member, he was also available as an interesting speaker.

He has left his mark on the community, and as Genealogists we appreciate that and will strive to keep his memory alive, as he did to keep the memory of those early Catholics who were buried in Mt. Rest Cemetery.

BOGUS-SERVISS SCHOOL RECORDS

The treasurer's record book, covering the years 1865 to 1932, for the Serviss School (once known as the Bogus School), District No. 2 Frl. (Ovid & Bingham), has lately been loaned to the archives by F. King Serviss. The school building is in section 30 of Ovid Township on the northeast corner of Taft and Chandler Roads and now is utilized as a residence. The records were kept by Peter NELSON, beginning 1865; Frank L. MERRIHEW, beginning 1891; R. MARSHALL, beginning 1893; Emily A. McCOLLUM, beginning 1896; and Gertrude E. MERRIHEW, beginning 1903. The following miscellaneous information and a list of teachers has been abstracted from that book:

<u>Date of Payment</u>	<u>To Whom Paid</u>
Oct. 28, 1873	George ELLIOTT \$2 for making holes for privy.
Nov. 15, 1873	Benjamin G. BROWN \$30 for making privies.
Nov. 25, 1873	15 cents for cup and chalk.
Oct. 20, 1874	William SERVISS \$1.50 for plastering school.
June 23, 1879	Joshua KREPS \$6 for boarding teacher.
Feb. 12, 1883	J[ohn] W[esley] PUTNAM \$2.33 for pabl/chair.
Sept. 24, 1887	George W. KIMBLE \$36.75 for well.
Dec. 14, 1888	George KIMBLE \$29.75 for fence around school
Nov. 26, 1895	Frank BONHAGLE \$300 for building schoolhouse.
Dec. 6, 1895	J. W. PUTNAM \$50 for schoolhouse site.
Feb. 3, 1896	Thomas Kane & Co. \$95 for seats.
Mar. 14, 1896	F. F. MURDOCK \$4.50 for date stone.
Dec. 2, 1899	George SERVISS \$4.47 for putting down a well.
Aug. 24, 1901	Byron COURTWRIGHT \$8.50 for crock well.
Jan. 6, 1903	W. H. JOHNSON \$17.50 for Hills Encyclopedia.
Aug. 24, 1907	W. R. OSGOOD \$7 for book case.

Teachers' names are given chronologically as they appear in the book as being "paid for teaching duties." Some names reappear at later dates indicating they were rehired after an interim of other teachers. Some given names of teachers have been determined from other sources and are enclosed by brackets []. Many were referred to as "Miss" which is abbreviated to "Ms".

<u>Date of Payment</u>	<u>To Whom Paid</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>To Whom Paid</u>
3-3-1866	Flora A. BECKWITH	7-3-1873	Ida AVERY
8-25-1866	Laura A. FOOTE	12-24-1873	D. M. PUTNAM
9-29-1866	Morris DILTZ	6-25-1874	Ida AVERY
9-29-1866	M. THOMPSON	12-22-1874	Lucy RUSH
9-2-1868	C. G. DUBOIS	5-29-1875	Ella CARNEY
9-2-1868	Ermina WILKINSON	12-23-1875	Mr. WOODARD
3-2-1869	R. DUBOIS	6-2-1876	Ella CARNEY
7-15-1869	Mary G. WINCHELL	2-23-1877	Charles GIFFLES
1-2-1871	R. DUBOIS	6-23-1877	Ada CRONK
6-3-1871	Lucinda HAUSE	3-25-1878	Gertie MERRIHEW
3-15-1872	Lee WELTER	12-13-1878	Ada CRONK
8-??-1872	Josephine TAYLOR	7-19-1879	Alice UNDERWOOD
		1-20-1880	Alice SMITH
		3-26-1880	Jennie DUNKEL

5-27-1880 Cora FENNER
 12-28-1881 Frank WILLIAMS
 5-17-1882 Ms A. A. DECLAIR
 3-5-1883 Gertie MERRIHEW
 11-22-1883 Charles WHITNEY
 6-12-1884 Lucy BEATTIE
 3-23-1885 Gertrude MERRIHEW
 12-13-1885 Eva FIELDS
 11-15-1886 James CURTIS
 7-23-1887 Mary TAFT
 12-17-1887 Emma WILKINSON
 8-13-1888 Matie TAFT
 11-30-1888 Gertie E. MERRIHEW
 10-7-1890 Ms EATON ?]
 2-9-1891 Myrtie JOHNSON
 8-10-1891 Gertie E. MERRIHEW
 12-23-1891 Ella BROWN
 5-5-1892 Nellie PRATT
 2-17-1893 Ms BARE [Jennie?]
 5-10-1893 Minnie HUNTER
 7-13-1894 Velma BURDICK
 10-29-1894 Florence MAXAM
 5-13-1895 Leo/L. J. GROVE
 3-13-1896 Margaret KELLY
 5-6-1896 Maud R. FRENCH
 10-2-1896 Ms ABLE [Eva?]
 1-7-1897 Leo J. GROVE
 11-12-1897 G. W. ANDERSON
 1-4-1898 James A. COX
 11-3-1898 Ms SPERRY [Flora?]
 4-17-1899 Gertrude MERRIHEW
 9-19-1900 Ms HILL
 10-5-1900 Pauline PIKE
 1-4-1901 Grace MC DONALD
 2-21-1901 Mina CROWNER
 6-13-1902 Ms FINDLAY
 5-15-1903 Ms EISEMAN [Caddie
 12-17-1903 Lucy PUTNAM
 10-7-1904 Ms BOND [Myrtie?]
 9-24-1907 Ms LOVE [Edna]
 9-30-1908 Ms CHAPIN [Ethel]
 9-24-1909 Mrs. GOVE [Mrs. N
 12-9-1909 Ms ARNOLD [Grace]
 9-16-1910 Ms PUTNAM [Ina]
 9-27-1911 Ms PLOWMAN [Hazel]
 9-13-1912 Ms JONES [Rosa]
 9-27-1913 Ms BARRETT
 10-16-1914 Ms GREGORY
 9-29-1915 Ms HANDLON [Helen
 1-28-1916 Ms LOFTUS [Ila]
 9-27-1916 Ms HANDLON
 10-6-1917 Ms GATZA

9-27-1918 Ms WISMER
 9-13-1919 Ms LOFTUS
 2-2-1920 Ms WISMER
 10-1-1920 Ms FISHER [Neva]
 10-12-1921 Erma EICHORN
 9-28-1923 Ms BRANDT [Leona]
 10-28-1925 Ms BISHOP G.
 9-23-1927 Irma GAGE
 9-27-1929 Irma SERVISS
 9-26-1930 Ms COFFMAN M.

BOGUS SCHOOL
 probably 1912-13

Rosa JONES, Teacher
 Alma SERVISS, Director
 Orrin JUMPER, Moderator
 Gertrude MERRIHEW, Treasurer

Pupils:

Esther BAKER
 Neva BARTLETT
 Alta BIGELOW
 Elmer BIGELOW
 Georgie BIGELOW
 Mary CLARK
 Alice JUMPER
 Guy MARTIN
 Ilene MARTIN
 J. C. MARTIN
 Zilpha MUNSON
 Cora PATTERSON
 Ethel PATTERSON
 Beatrice ROBINSON
 Fred ROBINSON
 J. D. ROBINSON
 Nettie ROBINSON
 H. Maxwell SMITH
 Charles STEAVENS
 Arttie STEVENS
 Evelyn STEVENS
 Berenice TEED
 Francis TEED
 Anna VAN SICKLE
 Edmond VAN SICKLE
 Gertie VAN SICKLE

* * * * *

The brighter you are, the more you have to learn

- Don Harold

CLINTON COUNTY PIONEER CERTIFICATES

Fourteen descendants of Clinton County pioneer EDWARD BUTTERFIELD recieved a Pioneer Certificate after submitting their proof of descent as required for the county sesquicentennial project in 1989. The longest lineage, seven generations, submitted for this family group was that of STEVEN D. MILLER, b 27 March 1987, Owosso, Shiawassee Co. His progenitors are (Places are in Clinton Co. and/or Michigan unless otherwise stated):

DONALD W. MILLER; b 5 Jan. 1961, St. Johns; farmer; m 2 Nov. 1985, Ovid Twp., to DANEEN S. MC KAY.

JACK V. MILLER; b 15 Aug. 1927, St. Johns; farmer; m 19 Jan. 1959, Ovid Twp., to MARILYN J. ORDWAY.

CLARE W. MILLER; b 29 Jan. 1898, Watertown Twp.; farmer; m 12 Mar 1921, St. Johns, to E. PEARL MOFFAT; d 10 May 1941, Ovid; bur. Wacousta Cemetery.

CLAUDE J. MILLER; b 4 Jan. 1864, Watertown Twp.; farmer; m 14 Nov. 1888 to CORA M. TAYLOR; d 23 July 1933, Watertown Twp.; buried Wacousta Cemetery.

MARIA BUTTERFIELD; b 22 Sept. 1839, Watertown Twp.; m 2 July 1857 to WILLIAM S. MILLER; d 20 Sept. 1910, Watertown Twp.; buried Wacousta Cemetery.

EDWARD BUTTERFIELD; b 1812, NY; farmer; m 1838 to SARAH J. CRONKITE; d 24 Dec. 1868, Watertown Twp.; buried South Riley Cemetery.

Other descendants of Edward Butterfield who received pioneer certificates are PAULINE (PETERSON) WALKER of Grand Ledge, Eaton Co.; JACK V. MILLER, JACK V. MILLER, JR., DONALD W. MILLER, CHRIS R. MILLER, and RONALD C. MILLER of Ovid, JON D. MILLER of Elsie; DOUGLAS C. MILLER of Traverse City, Grand Traverse Co.; VIOLET (MILLER) CURTIS of Olivet, Eaton Co.; SUE A. (MILLER) STRAIT of Lansing, Ingham Co; GLORIA J. MILLER of Dewitt; RONALD BOSS of Eagle; and A. SHIRLEY (MILLER) WRIGHT of Grand Ledge, Eaton Co. They all have the earliest two generations in common with Steven D. Miller, but then branch off in several separate lines.

These applications and supporting documents are a valuable addition to the files at the archives and are full of information for the further use of researchers.

* * * * *

Not to know the events which happened before one was born, that is to remain always a boy. - Marcus Tullius Cicero (106-43 B.C.)

FRENCH ROAD CEMETERY

Compiled in 1990 by Adele Jones, 1448 West French Road, St. Johns, Michigan. She has lived on French Road for 57 years and has had a first-hand knowledge of many of the changes listed in this narrative. Research assistance was given by Cynthia (Jones) Oglesbee and Arlene (Conley) Smith.

This cemetery, or graveyard, as it used to be called, lies on top of a hill on the south side of French Road about one half mile east of "French's Corner" (French Road at U.S. 27), north of St. Johns in section 28. Nothing can be seen of it now except a few marker bases leaning against the fence.

There were probably two reasons for establishing it. Quite a few Adventists lived here then, and they had their own cemetery, now heavily overgrown, on Sevy Road. Others wanted their own cemetery. Also at that time, probably in the 1850's, French's Corner was a thriving spot with a post office, a grist mill, a blacksmith shop, two taverns, and quite a number of homes. However, when the railroad passed through on the south side of the marsh, the corner dwindled slowly.

The cemetery was probably about 100 feet square at one time. Two fields were put together in one, making it more practical to plow up the ruined graves.

The land was given by the Coleman brothers, relatives of the Whitlocks, who built the tavern. The lots are shown on the abstract of the land ownership of S and H Farms. Stanley Whitlock has a deed to a family plot. A good many people

owned lots at one time, and quite a few bodies were buried there. Those who could afford it put up stone markers, but many could not afford that. It was a time of great transiency. People were constantly moving, and money was very scarce on the frontier.

The early settlers kept sheep, not cattle, since there was no market for dairy products. The sheep did no harm to the markers and kept the grass and shrubs down around them. When cattle began to be pastured, it was a different matter. A woven wire fence was put around the cemetery, but the cattle rubbed against it, eventually knocking it down. There seemed to be no people left whose business it was to keep up the fence. The cattle rubbed against the markers, finally knocking them down and breaking the flat markers then in use. St. Johns started a cemetery which seemed likely to be cared for, and a number of bodies were moved there.

The Colemans sold the tavern and farm to Mr. French after the Civil War. Walsworth and Barnes bought the farm from Mr. French. Mary Walsworth was building outdoor fireplaces around the old tavern. She decided to use the broken markers for hearth stones, as did her brother Allen Beach. Research shows that the top of one tombstone, containing the name Irene Reidar Benotto-Ritz (or Irene Rei D'Arbenotto-Ritz, or Irene Reid Arbenotto-Ritz) was put above the mantel area of the northeast fireplace. Hearthstones were made of grave markers in the southeast fireplace and contain the following surnames and names: Dollie King, Fisher, James

Hiscock, Catherine ?, Mother ?, Maria and Henerius, Wife and two with only bits of information. Near the back entrance to the old French (or Coleman) Tavern, someone has cemented in a square marker for the little Coleman girl, 8 years old when she died.

After the broken stones were removed, the larger part of the cemetery was plowed up. In a small section near the road were two stones remaining which had decayed so that they were unreadable due to the poor quality of the stone. In May the grass was full of blooming myrtle and dwarf iris. Again in June it was beautiful with the roses brought by the pioneers: grass roses and bi-colored roses, and thorny, little, white bush roses.

The farm changed hands again, and the new owner, Mr. William Luecht, did not want to plow around this cemetery remnant. He asked one or two neighbors if they had any relatives there, and not finding any, he dynamited the two undecipherable stones and plowed to the fence. Two of the tombstone bases can still be found near the fence.

This is a sad affair. Undoubtedly, there were quite a few bodies there from families which had moved on. Early coffins were simply pine boxes, and the markers were of wood because people could not afford better. These decayed, and there was nothing to move even if desired. But these were the graves of our pioneers and deserve better treatment. The materials we have found indicate approximately 18 persons' remains may still be there. We cannot know how many others.

One more note must be added to the above. Allen Beach, Mary

Walsworth's brother, took some of the stones to be used in his property in St. Johns. Some were destroyed earlier. The two remaining contain the names "Lizzie" and "Welter."

The names of those people whose remains are still at the cemetery site are as follows:

ALICE COLEMAN, little girl of 8 yrs. 4 mos. and 8 days, died August 17, 1866.

ISAAC HISCOCK and PHEBE CRANDALL HISCOCK, mother and father of Phebe Whitlock, wife of Orange Whitlock.

JAMES HISCOCK, son of Isaac and Phebe Hiscock, born Feb. 28, 1797, died September 26, 1883.

IDA L. WHITLOCK, wife of O. A. Whitlock (son of the original Orange Whitlock), died in 1889.

EDITH WHITLOCK, daughter of O. A. Whitlock and Ida L., died Sept. 12, 1879, at 4 months.

In all probability, the following people are also still there. These are the names, or partial names, or other indications of names, found on the tombstones used in hearthstones and fireplaces near the old Coleman Tavern on the southeast corner of French Road and U. S. 27. The names of those people whose remains are still there are as follows: (Letters in brackets [] are assumed)

IRENE REIDAR BENOTTO-RITZ (or IRENE REI D'ARBENOTTO-RITZ or IRENE REID ARBENOTTO-RITZ), found cemented in the northeast fireplace. Clasped hands from same tombstone found cemented in the southeast fireplace.

JAMES HISCOCK, tombstone referred to above.

DOLLIE KING, daughter of Nicholas and Nancy King, died January 12, 1864, aged 11 years and 19 days. Down below, this

tombstone has "B. & S. of Owosso." (tombstone maker?) Verse inscribed as follows: Only the body in the ground of her we dearly loved, The spirit has its dwelling found and lives with Christ above.

CATHERINE ? , aged 74 yr., 7 mo., 5 da, died Oct. 22, 1879. There is an inscription as follows. The underscored parts are missing. Mrs. Jones remembers family members quoting this verse; therefore we filled it in:

Catherine is my name.

Clinton is my station.

Greenbush is my dwelling.

Christ is my salvation.

FISHER, -----NE E., ----- 18 day, -----1859.

-----, died --- yrs., 7 mos.

-----, E 101-.

Partial verse as follows:

... fight I have finished in faith.

Wife (?)

To live in hearts we leave behind Is not to die.

Moth[er]

A faithfull friend,
Companion dear]

A tender wife lies
buried here.

Great is the loss
we do sustain

But hope in Heaven to
meet again.

MARIA ET HENERIU[S], DECERUNT
HOO.

The following marker remnants were found at the old Beach home, more recently, the Conley residence (opposite the old Hicks home), 108 South Ottawa, St. Johns, Michigan:

WELTER, moument base, used as a finial for stone wall; was in sunken garden.

LIZZIE (?), used in electric fireplace in wall of sunken garden.

A last entry here, found in earlier material collected by Mrs. Jones, and possibly on the tombstone of Phebe Crandall Hiscock: ----- Aged 92 yrs. I have fought a good [fight]. My course I have kept.

* * * * *

MUSEUM CALENDAR EVENTS

Paine-Gillam-Scott Museum, West side of Courthouse square, St. Johns. Hours: Sunday 1-5pm and Wednesdays 2-8pm. Closed legal holidays. the 1860 Historic House is furnished in the Victorian period. Clinton County history is on display, plus changeable exhibits. Donation Info: (517) 224-2894 or 224-7402.

EXHIBITS: World's largest specimens of a butterfly, moth, beetle and spider in a large unique collection.

Memorabilia of a BOY SCOUT, who was a member of the first organized troop in America, 1909. Also, the Boy Scout calendar Art of Norman Rockwell.

J.W. Dants' milk-glass bottles, containing the art work of Arthur Singer's Field Birds. Inspired by Audubon, Singer is now being compared to him. Singer is the artist of the series of U.S. postal stamps of the States Birds and Flowers in 1982.

50th Anniversary of WWII, Uniforms, memorabilia and German souvenirs. Also, six scrap books of the War period of 1941 - 1946. Good research material.

Wanted: Items pertaining to the Columbian Exposition of 1893, Chicago and of Christopher Columbus.

GENEALOGISTS HAVE WORK SESSION

On May 6, 1991, the Genealogists of the CCHS met at the archives and worked in various shifts from 4 P.M. until 9:30 P.M. to completely abstract the birth records from the 1981 issues of The Clinton County News. Approximately 600 names were added to the files from this effort. The regular business meeting was also held during that time.

* * * * *

RECENT ACQUISITIONS AT THE ARCHIVES

Lemm School Records 1948 - 1960.

Jerrine Mead Obituary Collection.

Genealogy Charts of:

Harcy Smith 1787-1853

Thomas Lannin ca 1805 - ca 1855

Thomas Gay 1811 - 1899.

Janet Snyder's news clipping collection.

Dorothy Millman's large collection of research aid books, maps, catalogs, & periodicals.

Arlyn Gantz's Collection of Clinton Co. Hist. & Gen. Soc. Newsletters & Handbooks, and many other misc. records, indexes, Bible records, etc.

35 back issues of The Genealogical Helper, 1978 - 1988.

QUERIES

Please send all queries (with SASE) and replies to: QUERY EDITOR, Clinton County Trails, P.O. Box 23, St. Johns, MI 48879.

Robert L. BURRITT is seeking information on relatives of this name who lived in Clinton Co. in 1880's; in particular, TALCOTT, NATHAN, AND AARON BURRITT.

Margaret E. WOODRUFF MORRISEY would like to correspond with anyone having knowledge of:

Riley Jerome WOODRUFF and/or Sarah Sophronia GREENE WOODRUFF (husband & wife). Riley d in St. Johns 18 Apr 1916. Sarah d in St. Johns 28 Feb 1895.

Hamilton WILSON and/or Sarah J. EARL WILSON (husband & wife). Hamilton d in St. Johns 28 Jun 1895. Sarah d in St. Johns 27 Jun 1933.

* * * * *

These patrons of the archives are researching the following surnames:

Vicki JENKS
1881 Theresa
DeWitt, MI 48820:
SNITGEN/SCHNUTGEN, SCHOENITH,
BAUER/BAUR/BOWER.

C. Gordon ELLIOTT, Lansing:
SOWLE.

Ginger FOSTER
14140 Turner Rd.
DeWitt, MI 48820:
RICHTER.

Geneva KEBLER WISKEMANN
5580 W. State Rd., Lansing:
STRICKLAND.



**WILLIAM SERVISS LEADS
GENEALOGISTS**

The newly elected president of the Genealogists of the CCHS is William Serviss. For several years he has been the Monday staff person at the archives, available to aid researchers. He has performed many "fix-it" feats on the various pieces of equipment (photocopier, typewriter, computer, etc.) that are needed to keep the organization functioning. He has also worked many long hours on the Mt. Rest Cemetery indexing project.

Bill is a native of Clinton County, now lives near DeWitt, and he is retired from IBM. He has many ancestors and relatives in this county.

GENEALOGISTS UPCOMING MEETINGS

Monday, July 1 7:30pm. - Capital Federal Savings & Loan Community Room, Downtown, St. Johns. Tentative program; "Reading Property Descriptions" by Marvin Church.

Monday, August 5 - 6:30pm - Annual Picnic at the St. Johns City Park. Bring a dish to pass, your own table service & drinks.

Monday, September 9 4:00 - 9:00pm at the Archives, a work session to index vital statistics from one year of the Clinton County News. If you can work in this time frame, come and go at your convenience. Business meeting around 8:00pm.

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Clinton County Trails is the quarterly newsletter of the Genealogists of the Clinton County Historical Society, Box 23, St. Johns, MI 48879. Readers are encouraged to submit material for publication.

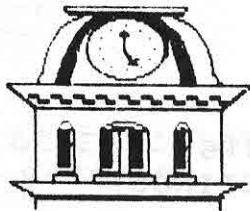
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THE GENEALOGISTS' OFFICERS

William Serviss.....Pres.
Dorothy Cressman.....V-Pres.
Maralyse Brooks.....Sec.
Janet Tiedt.....Treas.
Janet Snyder.....Corr.Sec.

* * * * *

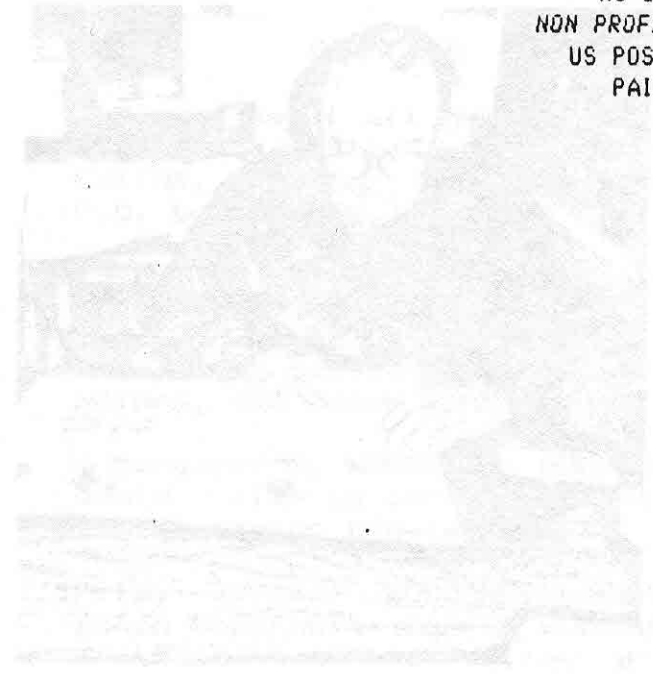
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Clinton County Historical Society

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St. Johns, MI 48879

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Phone _____ New _____ Renewal _____

ANNUAL DUES to join both Clinton Historical Society and The Genealogists and receive their quarterly newsletter *The Clinton County Trails*, are \$4.00 for a single membership and \$7.00 for husband & wife. Checks should be made payable to The Clinton County Historical Society and mailed to P.O. Box 174, St. Johns, MI 48879

GENEALOGISTS OF THE CLINTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The ARCHEVES OF THE GENEALOGISTS OF THE CLINTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY are located at 4700 Brook Road in the NE corner of the office building of DeWitt Charter Twp. Volunteer staff (William serviss and Myrna Van Epps) are there to give research assistance from 9:00am to 4:00pm on Mondays and Tuesdays.